

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for an intracardiac device, said front-end ~~loaded~~ loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and

a distal portion, comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, said lumen of said distal portion being co-extensive with said expanded lumen of said proximal portion;

wherein said distal end of said distal portion comprises means for reducing air introduction into a patients' cardiovascular system when said percutaneous transluminal system is in use during delivery of said intracardiac device from said lumen of said distal portion, and

wherein the means for reducing air introduction includes a beveled edge at said distal end of said distal portion, said beveled edge including a tip and a base, said base disposed proximally of said tip.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The front-end loader of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said beveled edge is chamfered at least partially around its perimeter.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein the expanded lumen is conically shaped.

6. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said intracardiac device comprises an intracardiac occluder.

7. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

8. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.

9. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.

10. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent foramen ovale.

11. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said means for reducing air introduction receives said intracardiac device to withdraw said intracardiac device from the patient's body.

12-34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for an intracardiac device, said front-end loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and

a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, said lumen of said distal portion being co-extensive with said expanded lumen of said proximal portion;

wherein said tube comprises a beveled edge at said distal end; and

further wherein said tube comprises a chamfered rim around the inner perimeter of said beveled edge.

36. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 35, wherein the said chamfered rim comprising an outer rim and an inner rim, said inner rim positioned proximal to said outer rim.

37. (Previously Presented) The front-end loader of claim 35, wherein the expanded lumen is conically shaped.

38. (New) The front-end loader of claim 35, wherein said intracardiac device comprises an intracardiac occluder.

39. (New) The front-end loader of claim 38, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

40. (New) The front-end loader of claim 38, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.

41. (New) The front-end loader of claim 38, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.

42. (New) The front-end loader of claim 38, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent foramen ovale.